



Vol. V, July 2008



### Happy New Year!

Once again we have completed another successful fiscal year under the direction of the Board of Supervisors. Congratulations to each of you and thank you for your daily contributions that helped make the year a success. Congratulations also to Supervisor Nguyen and Supervisor Campbell for their recent reelection to their respective offices. Hopefully part of their success and that of the entire Board is the day-to-day work of County staff/ individual employees.

The adoption of the 2008-09 Budget has been acted on by the Board. The Budget process was and is a challenge – next year will be even more difficult as we stay in a real estate downturn and gas prices impair the public's ability to stimulate the local economy through discretionary spending.

We have been notified by OCERS that it proposes a major cost-rate increase for fiscal year 2009-10. That came as a surprise to us and we are analyzing the calculations and the total costs. It appears, however, that OCERS is trying to return to the inflated base that (Continued on page 2) A New Sheriff at the Helm

The Sheriff's Department has a new leader to steer the department in a confident direction. Hundreds of community members and members of the press filled the lawn of the Old County Courthouse to watch Sheriff Sandra Hutchens, the first-ever Board-appointed sheriff, as she was sworn into public office on June 24.

"The men and women of the Orange County Sheriff's Department deserve leadership equal to the task they carry out each and every day," said Sheriff Hutchens during her swearing-in speech. "Now, I have been given the responsibility to build on that commitment, and together with my entire command team, will lead this department to do what its members have been trained, and made a commitment, to do."

For the first time in Orange County's 119-year history, the Board of Supervisors was tasked the responsibility to appoint a new sheriff after former Sheriff Mike Carona resigned from office in January. After five months of a competitive recruitment process that included public interviews, the Board selected Sandra Hutchens to be the County's 12th sheriff. In addition to being the first Boardappointed sheriff. Hutchens is also the first female to hold the prominent position.

(Continued on page 2)



Sheriff Hutchens (left) is sworn into public office by Judge Carolyn Kirkwood

#### (Continued from page 1)

was successfully challenged a year or two ago. Perhaps it is time to resurface the CalPers option that was reviewed at that time.

The other major employee item that is pending is the health insurance "reserve" refund. That is ready to go but now is on hold pending review of some legal challenges by the Retired Emplovees Association of Orange County, Inc. (REAOC). We will pursue that review...more to follow.

On behalf of the Board and myself I want to take this opportunity to thank Auditor-Controller David Sundstrom and his staff for their continuing contribution to excellence in O.C. We sometimes disagree about the A-C's response to challenges, however, the A-C's ability to thoroughly analyze issues and continued monitoring of County finances is an important key to our ongoing success.

I also want to publicly thank Jack Anderson for a job well done as Acting Sheriff. He displayed character, integrity and courage in his role. And, of course, welcome to Sandra Hutchens as our new Sheriff. The process that the Board adopted worked extremely well and resulted in a number of qualified candidates. Now that Sheriff Hutchens has been selected I challenge each of us to work with her and the department to ensure the success of both.

For my part, thanks again for being here and for your efforts. Be well and have a safe summer with your friends and family. Again -Happy New Year!

### Thomas G. Mauk **County Executive Officer**

#### (Continued from page 1)

Sheriff Hutchens rose through the ranks in the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department and brings with her more than 27 years of law enforcement experience. Most recently, Hutchens served as a L.A. Sheriff's Department division chief in charge of homeland security.

Looking forward to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead of the department, Sheriff Hutchens noted in her speech that change is needed to move the department onward.

"The willingness to look at what works and ask how it can be made even better, is in and of itself, change," said Sheriff Hutchens. "It is only leading the department through an analysis of all the things that we do right, that we can have the solid foundation to identify what we do wrong - and fix it."

Sheriff Hutchens lives with her family in Dana Point.

### A-4 Skyhawk Memorial **Near Completion**

In 1998, a small group of volunteers led by Captain Dan McCoy of the Santa Ana Police Department came together to form the Orange County Marine Corps Memorial Founda-

tion. Members shared the goal of creating a veteran's memorial featuring an A-4 Skyhawk Aircraft.

The Board of **Supervisors** directed the County Executive Of-

fice to work with the Foundation to make its dream a reality in 1999. As the future owner of the memorial, the County took possession of the A-4 Skyhawk Aircraft. The plane has since been stored and refurbished at the Chino airport.

Capt. McCoy passed away in 2002, but the volunteers continued forward, and recently reached their fundraising goal of \$250,000 this year. The memorial will sit just outside

Building 12

Downtown

Santa Ana

Civic Cen-

ter Plaza.

patio will

be con-

structed

plane.

be

around the

which will

mounted

A large

in the

**Construction begins on the A-4 Skyhawk** 

atop a 10-foot concrete pedestal.

Construction of the memorial is expected by early August. For more information, please call Carolyn McInerney at (714) 834-4755.

Memorial.

Page 2



# New Wireless Telephone Laws Went Into Effect July 1

Two new State laws dealing with the use of cell phones while driving went into effect July 1, and may impact the way employees use their County-issued vehicles and BlackBerry devices.

Beginning this month, a driver may only use a cell phone if it is equipped with hands-free listening and speaking devices. Push-to-talk systems, such as those made by Nextel, are exempt from the hands-free requirement. Drivers under the age of 18, however, are prohibited from using any communication devices while behind the wheel.

The laws make an exception for drivers in emergency situations. Cell phones may be

used without hands-free equipment when calling law enforcement, medical providers and the fire department.

It is vital to follow all traffic regulations and vehicle codes when driving in County-issued vehicles. Violators ticketed for either offense will be subject to a base fine of \$20 (at least \$70 after penalties are added) for a first offense and \$50 (at least \$175 after penalties are added) for subsequent offenses.

If you need to request a hands-free device for use with your County-issued cellular phone, please contact your department's Information Technology staff or supervisor for assistance.

# Commuter Assistance Program Offers Travel Relief

Ever-escalating fuel costs have caused significant difficulties for employees who commute to work. As a result, the Commuter Assistance Program (CAP) has experienced a considerable increase in employee participation.

CAP is a County-run service available to all employees which offers low-cost alternatives and incentives for daily commutes. So far this year, the number of employees purchasing bus and train passes with pre-tax dollars through payroll deduction has increased by 50 percent and requests for carpool matches have improved by nearly 70 percent.

The County strongly supports all forms of ridesharing to reduce consumption of gasoline, decrease traffic congestion and improve air quality in our region.

To keep up with employee demand, the Ride-



share program office will hold Lunchtime Rideshare Information Events throughout the County to illustrate the alternatives to driving alone to work. Employees may also learn about the following services and start-up incentives available:

- Carpool Classifieds If you would like help finding a fellow employee to carpool with, you may add your name to a list of employees who are also looking for a carpool match.
- Try the Train or Bus Employees interested in taking a Metrolink train or local OCTA bus to work may receive a complimentary one or two day pass to give the new commute a try. If an employee decides to sign up for the Commuter Choice program, the Rideshare Office will pay for the first month's pass.
- Commuter Choice Employees may purchase their bus, train or vanpool passes (Continued on page 4)

#### (Continued from page 3)

through payroll deduction using up to \$115 per month of pre-tax dollars, reducing their taxable income and paying less in income tax.

- Commuter Club Employees who carpool, bike, walk, vanpool, take the bus or train to work can receive membership to the Commuter Club that provides a discount card good at local merchants through OCTA's Destination Deals program, as well as Starbucks gift card and entry into quarterly drawings to win one of eight \$25 gift cards.
- Emergency Ride Home Taxi or rental car rides are available if an emergency occurs on a day that you rideshare.

Each Sept. all employees are asked to complete the Annual Transportation Survey. As part of the survey process, employees will also have an opportunity to register for the various services and incentives listed above. All employees must complete the survey each year so that changes in commuting patterns and needs can be assessed and incorporated into program enhancements.

For a schedule of rideshare events or to find out more about the CAP programs and other regional incentives that are available, log onto the CAP website (www.ocgov.com/hr/rideshare) or e-mail the CAP staff at rideshare@ocgov.com.

If you have questions or suggestions about providing other rideshare services or an idea that would help to improve commuting to the County, you may submit items to ask.the.ceo@ocgov.com.

## Leadership Academy IX Graduates

The participants of the ninth session of the Orange County Leadership Academy (OCLA) graduated May 31 – bringing the total number of County managers who have completed the leadership development program to 270. OCLA's philosophy distinguishes between routine managing and becoming a true leader. The program includes discussion and hands-on exercises that bring the theory into workday reality.

(Continued on page 5)



The Orange County Leadership Academy's ninth graduating class at their graduation on May 31.

### **COUNTY CONNECTION**

### (Continued from page 4) Leadership Academy IX Graduates

Connie Zavala Assessor

Richard Ramirez Assessor

Mike Montijo Auditor-Controller

Casey Aguilar Child Support Services

Daniela Rivera Clerk-Recorder

**Craig Feiner** OC Community Resources

Sylvia Mann OC Community Resources

Leslie Ray OC Community Resources

Ann Fletcher County Counsel

Michelle Zink County Executive Office

Carolyn McInerney County Executive Office Jim Pierce County Executive Office

Dennis Conway District Attorney

Melissa Tober Health Care Agency

Elizabeth Gonzalez Health Care Agency

Barbara Gondo Human Resources

Camille Gacksetter Internal Audit

**Tim Harris** John Wayne Airport

Linda Barry Probation

Robert Rangel Probation

Jeff Corp Probation **Deon Deshields** Public Administrator / Public Guardian

Sharon Petrosino Public Defender

Victor Valdovinos OC Public Works

David Wilson Sheriff-Coroner

Ron White Sheriff-Coroner

Mike Ryan Social Services Agency

Mary Jones Social Services Agency

Robin Russell Treasurer-Tax Collector

Rogelia Martinez Treasurer-Tax Collector

Alan Yuki OC Waste & Recycling

### Get The 411 On OC Child Support Services

- Child Support Services (CSS) staff collected \$179.1 million in child support payments for all cases with court orders in 2007.
- CSS' automated telephone system is used as a cost-effective means to remind non-paying noncustodial parents of failure to pay child support. Last year, approximately 41,716 calls were made with 74.7% connected.
- The average wait time experienced by customers calling the Telephone Assistance Service Center has been reduced by more than 60%, a success attributable to an increased number of agents as well as the introduction of new training programs and positive feedback programs.
- CSS has raised the percent of paternity establishments to 92.6%, a necessary step to obtain support orders for children born to unmarried parents.

To get more of the 411, visit: <u>http://www.css.ocgov.com/</u>

### COUNTY CONNECTION



#### For the Month of June

**30 Years** Bill Courter Health Care Agency

Margaret Black Sheriff-Coroner

Jane Reyes Sheriff-Coroner

Loren Sugarman Sheriff-Coroner

Richard Sherry OC Public Works

Patti Blume Sheriff-Coroner

25 Years Jody Ingram Auditor-Controller

Leann Alexander District Attorney

Pamela Graber Child Support Services

Michael Curd Health Care Agency

Dottie Ronan Sheriff-Coroner

Valna Wilson Sheriff-Conorer

Mike Bagwell OC Public Works

Lorenzo Fernandez OC Public Works

Jeff L Madler OC Public Works Margarita Anguiano OC Community Resources

20 Years Win Swe Auditor-Controller

Maribel Nava District Attorney

Janice Assigal Health Care Agency

Greg Masters Health Care Agency

Jennifer Durbin Health Care Agency

Chris Uyeno Health Care Agency

Roslyn Hoover Health Care Agency

Diana Green Health Care Agency

Susan Kodaira Health Care Agency

Mary Maurer Health Care Agency

Lynda Weisman Human Resources

Richard Borkowski Probation

David Maxfield Probation

Joel Monroe Sheriff-Coroner

Lolia A Washington Sheriff-Coroner James Amesquita Sheriff-Coroner

Phillip Povero Sheriff-Coroner

Marie Chasco Sheriff-Coroner

Patricia Wall Social Services Agency

Cynthia Hutchinson Social Services Agency

Edna Rangel Social Services Agency

Marta Zafary Social Services Agency

Ildefonso Alamo Social Services Agency

Melissa Lucett Treasurer-Tax Collector

Albert Lucero OC Public Works

Linda Lin OC Public Works

Maria Aguilar OC Community Resources

Andrae Frierson OC Community Resources

Wade Griffith OC Waste & Recycling

Kevin Rogers OC Waste & Recycling

Paul Barnes OC Waste & Recycling

# **County** Connection

**County Connection** is distributed monthly by the County Executive Officer Thomas G. Mauk. The newsletter is published by CEO Community/ Media Relations. Call 714.834.6203 or e-mail ask.the.ceo@ocgov.com with any suggestions and comments.

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